Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Friday 01 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 at 16:44 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for broad developments, but low for level of snow falling on Thursday and for details of shower distribution Friday to Monday.

Headline for Thursday 31 Dec 2020: Persistent snow in the morning, showers in the afternoon. Bitterly cold with strong summit winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Blizzards Medium Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Low Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light snow	Light snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Heavy snow showers	Light snow showers (night)	Light snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability							
20%	50%	70%	70%	40%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Weather: Occasional snow flurries turning to persistent often heavy snow before dawn. This turns to rain below 600m in the morning before gradually clearing southward from late morning. Often brighter in the afternoon, especially in the west, but with scattered showers, falling as snow above 500m, then 300-400m in the evening, clear spells in the south.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10% in the morning, cloud extensive above 400-500m, occasional breaks towards the west coast. Improving to 50-60% in the afternoon, with cloud becoming more broken, best of the breaks towards the west coast, especially towards dusk.

Visibility: Very poor at height in the morning, prolonged periods of near zero visibility in heavy snowfall and blizzards. Persistent whiteout conditions above the snowline. Becoming very good in the afternoon outside of passing low cloud and showers.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	18/20 N	21/24 N	27/32 N	35/42 N	35/42 N	32/39 N	28/34 N	26/32 N	26/31 N
900	14/16 N	17/20 N	24/29 N	32/39 N	32/39 N	30/37 N	26/32 N	24/29 N	23/29 N
600	6/8 SW	7/11 N	14/20 N	20/28 N	21/29 N	17/25 N	15/22 N	15/21 N	14/20 N
300	1/11 N	2/14 N	4/22 N	7/31 N	9/31 N	7/28 N	5/23 N	5/22 N	4/21 N
Glen	4/8 N	3/9 N	5/15 N	13/30 N	12/29 N	9/24 N	7/20 N	6/17 N	7/18 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-4/-11	-3/-10	-2/-11	-3/-12	-3/-12	-3/-12	-3/-12	-3/-11	-3/-11
900	-3/-9	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-11	-2/-11	-2/-11	-2/-10	-2/-10	-3/-10
600	-1/-5	-1/-5	-0/-6	0/-6	0/-6	0/-6	-0/-6	-1/-6	-1/-6
300	-1/-3	-0/-2	1/-1	2/-2	2/-1	2/-1	2/-1	1/-1	1/-1
Glen	1/-1	1/-1	3/1	4/-0	4/0	4/1	4/1	4/1	3/1
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	600m	700m	800m	700m	500m	500m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Some uncertainty around how quickly and how high the freezing level rises.

Forecast for Friday 01 Jan 2021
Weather: Showers throughout, falling as snow above 300-400m, then glen level in the evening. Showers most frequent along the north and west coasts. Best of any dry weather around Knoydart in the south.

Maximum wind: Northwest 20 gusting 30 mph, gradually easing through the day to 15 gusting 20 mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 40%, cloud bases often around 700m, lowering to 400-500m in passing showers, but frequent breaks likely, best of these in the south.

Visibility: Variable. Very good outside of any low cloud and passing showers, but falling to a few hundred meters or less in snow showers.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 1 or 2 Celsius, falling to zero Celsius in the evening.
At 800m: Minus 3 Celsius, falling to minus 5 Celsius in the evening.
Freezing level: 600m, falling to 400m in the afternoon.

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